



CARE CONVERSATIONS

FORWARD
FROM
DR TINA LAMONT // Director TEC



Dear Friend,

In this next series of *Care Conversations*, we look at some quotes from Emeritus Professor Seymour Sarason (who has since passed on). He established the Yale Psycho-Educational Centre, and wrote numerous books and articles.

The quotes over the next five weeks are taken from an interesting little tome called *Teaching as a Performing Art*. We will reflect on these quotes in relation to some perennial tensions of classroom teaching – are we there to engage the students, to entertain them, to control them? And what Biblical principles can we use to think about these aspects of teaching life more deeply and clearly?

Happy teaching.

Sincerely,

Dr Tina Lamont

Director TEC

The Excellence Centre

Series 5:

TEACHING AS A PERFORMING ART

REFLECTION BY
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Number 3:

TEACHING DISCERNMENT

There was a person who invited Jesus to his home for a meal. An apparently ‘unsavoury woman’ came and worshiped Jesus by cleaning His feet with her tears. The host was distressed by this, in his own thinking. Luke described it this way: *When the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he said to **himself**, “If this man were a prophet, He would know who is touching Him and what kind of woman she is...”* (7:39).

The next bit of the passage is classic teaching discernment: *Jesus answered him...* That is, Jesus knew what was on the heart and mind of this person, and taught in response to that.

Educationalists have observed similar things in teaching practice:

If you do not know the minds and hearts of learners, thereby 'hooking' them, you subvert productive learning. [Sarason p.110]

Let us pray for such discernment for all our teachers.

Grace and peace,

Stephen J Fyson PhD
Principal Consultant
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